



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, September 24, 2021

## *Mears Welcomes Families*

 *Mears Middle School*  
*Respect, Responsibility, Creativity and Academic Excellence*

**Family Open House**  
**Thursday, September 23, 2021**  
**6:00-7:00pm**

*Mears Middle School Mission*  
*Through teamwork and cooperation, all students become partners in their own educational progress, fostering self-respect, responsibility and integrity.*

00:00:49 / 00:56:40 Speed

On Thursday evening, Mears hosted its annual Community Open House. In an effort to support community health and safety, Mears held the event online with many families joining via zoom. This year's Open House gave teacher-leaders and other staff the opportunity to provide important updates regarding the reopening of school, educational goals, extracurricular activities, school health and safety, and much more. Thanks to all the students and families who attended and to our incredible teachers and staff who gave great presentations. If you missed the event, here is a link to the video.

[Mears Open House Video, 9-23-21](#) **Go Panthers!**

# Strong Start for Basketball



Mears Girls Basketball is off to a very strong start. Here is the team in action at Begich Middle School earlier this week. The girls are demonstrating a high level of play, great teamwork, and sportsmanship on the court. Special thanks to their coaches Mr. Jason MacDonald and Mr. Greg Ross. Congratulations team!

# Taking Aim

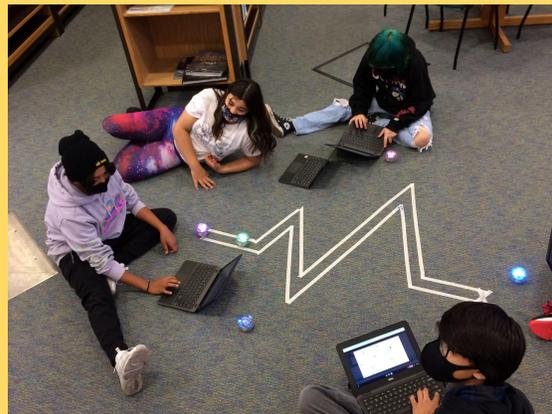


Archery is an extremely popular intramural activity at Mears with the team filled to capacity once again this year. Twice a year, students have the opportunity to learn the art and skill of archery under the guidance of Ms. Heather Fleming and Ms. Megan Perkins.

# Library at Mears



The library at Mears is an amazing space and it is perfect for many activities. 28 language arts classes have been to the library for orientations and book check out. Several classes are now using Noodletools to cite sources and create bibliographies. Students are also coming at lunch, after they eat, to hang out and play board games. Research units will be starting soon with lessons on preventing plagiarism and evaluating sources.



## Battle of the Books

All ten of this years' titles are available in the library! Students who are interested in participating in Battle of the Books should start reading right away. Meetings will be held during lunch (both lunch periods, one for each grade) starting on Monday, September 27. Reminders will be given during morning announcements.



# Stay Informed/Get Involved

## **Teachers and Staff**

Tuesday, Sept. 28 -- Collaborative Team Observation Meeting Visits -- During regularly scheduled team meetings, periods 1-7.

## **Student/Parent/Teacher Conference Days**

### **Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21**

For in-person and face-to-face meetings with your teachers, Mears families should plan to attend the Student/Parent/Teacher conferences next month. These meetings will be scheduled in advance for all interested parents and families, which will allow us to safely social distance and limit the number of persons in the building at one time. Masking and other Covid mitigation protocols will be practiced at all times during the event.

The online scheduler for conference days will go live on Oct. 4. Mears will send the link out to all families soon.

## Fill Out the Family Outreach Form

At this week's Open House, families were invited to fill out the Family Outreach Form. This short questionnaire gives parents and families the opportunity to communicate any questions or feedback you may have about school so far. Mears administrators and staff will review responses and will follow up soon with families. Strong communication between school staff and families is vital to supporting our students.

[Mears Family Outreach Form, 2021-22](#)

## Safety Minute

Mears Families:

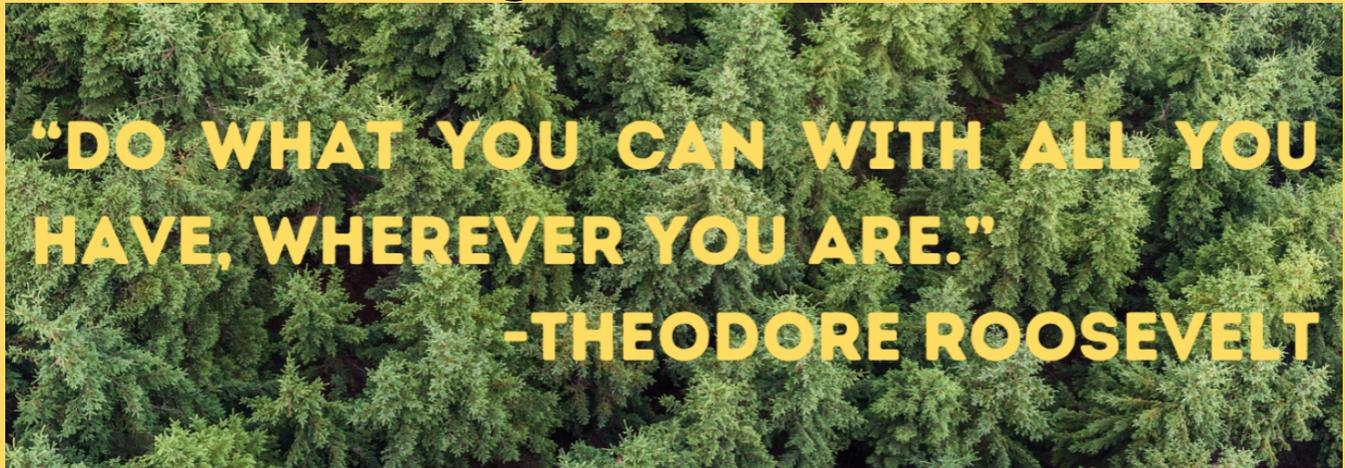
At Mears Middle School, we've already held a number of drills, including evacuation, earthquake, lockdowns, and ALICE drills. These drills are part of our Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Our plan is housed in the main office and online with the District. It explains different procedures, drills, and teams that ensure safety for your student at Mears.

Please let me know if you have any questions about our drills or our safety procedures.

Regards,

Mike Scott, Mears AP

# Mears Counseling Corner



Make sure your student has joined the counseling canvas page. Updates from the counseling office will be made throughout the year on Canvas. If students have not done so already, please have them click the invite link below.

Invite link: [Mears Counseling Canvas Page](#)



Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade  
[burr\\_caitlin@asdk12.org](mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade  
[svendsen\\_crysta@asdk12.org](mailto:svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6428

# Mears Activities Update

## 2021/22 Mears Middle School Activities & Sports

We've begun four great activities a Mears as of Thursday, August 19th: Girls Basketball, Baseball, Archery, and Cross Country. Practices run daily from 3-4:30 PM; please be punctual for pick up, as coaches cannot leave until students are picked up.

ASD's guidance indicates that students are not required to wear masks during active portions of practice, but I encourage all the students to wear masks at all times, particularly those involved in indoor activities. This promotes safety and helps allow for continuation of the activity in the even of a positive case.



*Bear cubs on the course at Kincaid this week.*

Additionally, coaches will take temperatures prior to practice with a forehead-scanning thermometer. They will also encourage the use of hand sanitizer and social distancing when possible.

### **Families must fill out the following forms for students to participate in sports:**

- Middle School Participation Form
  - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk\\_MrWGZd4mjAkPMj5/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk_MrWGZd4mjAkPMj5/view)
- COVID-19 Supplemental Waiver of Liability
  - [https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/4260/C\\_OVID-19%20Waiver.pdf](https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/4260/C_OVID-19%20Waiver.pdf)
- COVID-19 Return To Play
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/view>
- Health Examination Form
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11I5oSifxCsxF-MNIknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/view>

Added to these forms, if a student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the three months prior to the activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form.

Forms can be scanned and emailed to our AAFP: [spartz-hays\\_robin@asdk12.org](mailto:spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org) or dropped off at the school by your student near the main office between periods 1 and 2: designated basket supervised by Ms. Spartz-Hays.

Visit Mears website for all activities updates and information:  
<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4260>

## Upcoming Activity Events

### **Cross Country Running Meets: All begin at 5:30 PM**

9/29/21: Service High  
10/6/21: Kincaid Park  
10/13/21: Kincaid Park

### **Girls Basketball: Any student spectators must be accompanied by a parent or guardian**

9/28/21 Begich @ Mears JV (5 PM)  
GView @ Mears V (6 PM)

10/2/21 Jamboree (9-3 PM) Locations/Times Vary-Check ASD Schedule

10/9/21 Jamboree (9-3 PM) Locations/Times Vary-Check ASD Schedule

### **Baseball**

To date, schedule for 9/25/21 not provided: Check with Coach Bruce or American Legion

**All games this weekend will be at Kosinski Fields 3 & 4**

# Nurse Dan's Health Update Important Covid Health Reminder:

## COVID-19 Information

New mitigation goes into effect August 9

COVID Mitigation and Precautions

All are reminded of the importance of staying home if you are feeling ill or showing any symptoms. It is critically important that students and staff stay home whenever they are feeling ill.

Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation.

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

[ASD Return to School/Covid Mitigation Plan](#)



### PTSA Upcoming Meeting Dates

Parents, family members, and students are all welcome and encouraged to participate in PTSA meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us to learn all the ways that PTSA supports the Mears school community.

PTSA General Meeting -- Oct. 12, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Nov. 23, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Dec. 7, 5:30pm

### [Mears PTSA Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 2513 4041

Passcode: 436866

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom. The meeting link will be sent out prior to the first meeting in September.

### **PTSA Volunteer Needs**

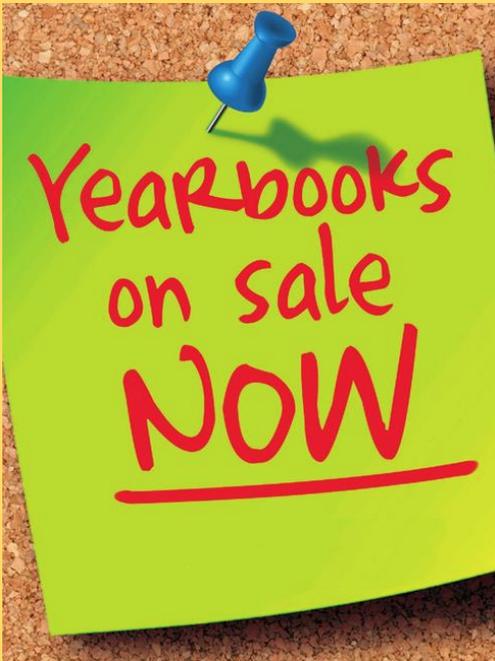
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- School Store & Merchandise/ Morning and Lunchtime Shifts Now Available
- Merchandise Inventory
- Social Media Coordinator
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution

Are you interested in supporting Mears PTSA as a volunteer? If you'd like to learn more, please fill out this brief survey:

[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

## Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales Have Begun



2021 - 2022 Yearbooks are on sale now! Purchase your yearbook at [www.ybpay.com](http://www.ybpay.com) use Yearbook ID: 13921122  
Mears PTSA

# Mears Thanks Healthcare Workers



Anchorage School District is deeply grateful to our healthcare community: the nurses, doctors and other healthcare workers who are doing so much to keep us safe, and who care for those impacted by COVID-19. Their strength, determination, and unyielding care for others is apparent in each of these portraits. These moving portraits express gratitude and inspire continued community action towards health and wellbeing as we continue to navigate the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

Portraits created by Katie and Kinsey MacDonald and Ms. Kat Yackel

## Go Panthers!

---



### We are on Dena'ina Homeland

Mears Middle School acknowledges that we operate and gather on the traditional land of the Dena'ina Peoples and honor, with gratitude, the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

### Mears Middle School Mission

Through teamwork and cooperation, all students become partners in their own educational progress, fostering self-respect, responsibility and integrity.

[Mears Middle School Website](#)